

WRESTLING FORUM

NOVEMBER 30, 1988

VOLUME III

ISSUE 22

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BUSTIN' AT THE SEAMS!!!

First things first. DuQuoin 21, Knoxville 0. I guess we'll just have to settle for being the third best high school football team in the state. Meanwhile, the basketball team is 3-0 already.

Howdy hi there friends and neighbors! And welcome to the wrestling newsletter that mixes not only professional wrestling, but also keeps you up to date on high school sports! Yes, folks, it's Wrestling Forum, the bulletin that's published on the 15th and 30th of each month at a cost of \$1.50 per issue. If you like, you can subscribe for up to six months worth at a time (which would be a total of \$18.00 maximum) or anywhere in between.

Last issue we mentioned how things in the wrestling world was dead, at least news wise. We don't have that problem this time around. Seems like the day after the Forum was in the mail last time, all Hell broke loose and we had more news than we knew what to do with. We go the official word on Kerry Von Erich the day it went in the mail (for those of you who don't know what I'm talking about, just wait till you read the Memphis/World Class report), but I didn't think it was worth putting one of those little white slips of paper in the issue to let you know. Besides, now we have most of the details which we didn't have at the time.

Getting away from the news for just a minute, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you to vote in the year end awards balloting. I'll try to list the complete categories somewhere in this issue, but here's the deal I'll make: If you are new to these pages or you have misplaced the official categories as listed last issue, send me a Self addressed, stamped envelope and I'll rush the centerfold from last issue out to you with the complete category listing. Be sure and mark your ballot BALLOT somewhere on the outside so we can be sure and process it. Hurry though. Voting ends in less than a month.

For those of you asking already about the yearbook, we'll be getting it published by the end of January, I hope. I think this year we can avoid some of the problems we had last year and have it to you by the time the baby is due (February 15th). I've gotten commitments from several people who will be helping put this year's edition together so I'm not going to be as bogged down as in the past.

One more thing before getting to the meat of the bulletin. The third issue of the UAWF is being put together as soon as this bulletin is out. The fourth will be out by the end of the year. (please stick the word "magazine" in right after UAWF...it'll make more sense). Convention 89 will have the locale and other details released by the end of January.

Enough of the opening page jabber. The barometer is here (an so early this month that there may be internal investigations at the postal service) with the Weather-Master himself Gary Micheal, whoops, I mean Jeff Siegel. Take er away, jeff...

Welcome to the November edition of "The Wrestling Barometer", the unique census of what's hot and what's not in professional wrestling presented exclusively each month in Wrestling Forum!

When the "Barometer" was created well over a year ago, its primary objective was to effectively identify ongoing trends within the world of professional wrestling--in other words, to be much more than just "another top ten list". Well, once again, the "Barometer" has come through with shining colors. This month's insightful results have not only identified an extremely interesting trend, but may foretell what lies ahead in 1989 as well. And that's exactly what the "Barometer" is designed to do.

As always, a quick review of the procedure that's used for tallying "Barometer" entries: 5 points is awarded for a first place vote, 3 points for a second place vote, 1 point for a third place vote, and $\frac{1}{2}$ point for every item that is included on a voter's list from fourth place on. Finally, a minimum point total is arbitrarily decided upon for inclusion in the column so that we can focus on the month's major trends.

Ncw, on to the very revealing November "Barometer":

WHAT'S HOT

(NEEDED TO QUALIFY: 15 POINTS)

1. Midnight-Midnight feud/angle (56 points)
2. Road Warriors' turn (30 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)
3. Culmination of NWA sales to Turner (22 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)
4. Fresh talent in NWA (16 points)

WHAT'S NOT

(NEEDED TO QUALIFY: 15 POINTS)

1. WWf Survivor Series (37 points)
2. Lawler/Kerry title unification angle (33 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)
3. Terry Taylor's "Red Rooster" gimmick (20 points)
4. WWF Leonard-Lalonde promos (18 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)

Notes: Now--let's take a good, hard look at what we've got here. If you haven't noticed already, the "Hot" side of the ledger is dominated by NWA-related entries. Conversely, three of the four "Not" qualifiers belonged to Mr. McMahon and his Titan machine. What does this all mean? Well, perhaps "Barometer" participants were simply caught up in the hope and euphoria brought about by the once-and-for-all takeover of the NWA by Mr. Turner? Maybe have things already taken a turn for the better? Or are they merely headed in the right direction? Only time will tell--but something tells me that this "Barometer" showing is more than just coincidence....Looking more closely at the NWA's string of victories on the up side, the Midnight-Midnight angle's big victory is really no surprise. It's the hottest thing to happen in pro wrestling in quite some time (Does anyone else remember all the "Verne-bashing" that went on when he initially brought Condrey and Rose in as the "Original Midnight Express"? Guess it wasn't such a bad idea after all)...The Roadies' turn fared well again, which makes you believe that it's got a good shot of getting over in the long run...Meanwhile, the Survivor Series showed up at about the same time in last year's "Barometer" (also on the dark side, in case you're wondering). It then proceed to remain there for a good three months...And it's not surprising that Terry Taylor's cartoon gimmick has "laid an egg" (sorry about that one). A sad case of another fine worker biting the dust.

The deadline for December "Barometer" ballots will be extended to December 31, 1988. That's because I'll be out of the country until

January 6--so the "Barometer" will appear in the January 30 issue (instead of the January 15 issue) as a one-time change. All entries should be sent to:

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INDEPENDENTLY SPEAKING

This is a new column which will include Continental until something happens down there to warrant devoting a whole page to it.

Steve Sims, fresh back from a trip home to Atlanta, reports that the wrestling block on Atlanta TV is offering a tape featuring Tommy Rich's Greatest Bloodbaths. Honest. And they call it Volume one. Must cover a week in his life or something.

Dick Murdoch appeared on a recent episode of Learning the Ropes and was prominently featured. He played himself and the plot was that he had been thrown out of his house by his wife and had to move in with the Masked Maniac and family. Dick was good and seems to be a natural comedian.

Tony Atlas appeared on Thanksgiving for a show in Texas for Chris Adams and his independent group. Atlas is being sought to give testimony in the Brody murder case that is going on in Puerto Rico. Atlas has gone in to semi-hiding supposedly because of threats made on his life. In the trial of Jose Gonzales, two doctors have been allowed to testify based on what Brody told them before he died. The charges against Gonzales have been reduced, I believe, to manslaughter.

In Continental, Black Bart and Steve Armstrong are newcomers. The promotion hopes to reunite Bart and Outlaw **Ron Bass** if Bass is indeed released from Titan. That is still up in the air.

Danny Davis and Ken Wayne continue their feud and should garner some votes for Feud of the Year. Recent developments had Wayne coming out before a match with the Eliminator and claiming that he had put Davis out of wrestling. When he got in the ring, Eliminator unmasked to reveal Davis. Wayne wrestled for a while but after coming up on the short end, took a walk. Later in the show he came out to complain about being deceived and was attacked by Davis with the two brawling all over the building. The feud further intensified when Davis beat Grappler II by DQ. The DQ ending resulted when Wayne came out from under the ring where he had been hiding. Wayne and Grap beat on Davis until Tom Pritchard made the save.

WRESTLER'S FORUM

This part of the newsletter is open to anyone involved in wrestling either as a wrestler, manager, announcer, promoter, referee or whatever. you may address any aspect of the sport in any way you wish. We will edit for spelling (stop laughing), grammar, space and profanity. We will also keep your identity confidential in every way we can including changing or omitting other names and places (sounds kinda like Dragnet, eh?). This issue's subject is:

SMART FANS

I can tell a Meltzerite or a Forumite a mile away. They're always approaching, usually with somebody in tow, with a big smile on their face. Normal fans don't come up to me with a smile on their face. They either have a look of fear or they pretend they don't see me. Almost everytime one of the smarts comes up, they start off the conversation by letting me know they're smart. They call me by my real name, they ask about wrestling somewhere else, they call other wrestlers by their real names or by names the newsletters have stuck them with or whatever.

I either ignore these cretons (sic) or double dose the heel act.

See, I don't care if you people know wrestling is a work or not. That's not important to me. But when you come up to me with that smug attitude, almost as an elitist, that gets under my skin. You're no better than the eighty year old lady with no teeth who sits in the front row and hits people with her umbrella. In fact, if you didn't pay to get into the show because you're friends with someone who can get you in for free, she's better than you. But that's a whole other story.

Now I read the sheets and most of the wrestlers do. Sometimes I agree with what they say, and sometimes not. I consider Dave and Jon to be insiders because of their ties with certain wrestlers and because they've been doing this so long. I would act the same way with them at an arena, however. I read the sheets to keep up with what the other promotions are doing and what my friends there are doing. They really are surprised when you call about something that was in the sheets.

That's getting off the subject.

Most smart fans are a pain in the butt. That's because they are like the little kid at the magic show who just bought a magic kit and so now he knows how to saw a lady in half or make elephants disappear. Same thing. A fan gets hold of a sheet and voila! they're a smart fan. And they want to share their knowledge. With every single fan in sight. Most are not discreet. Not only are they anxious to let other fans know they're smart, they want every wrestler in the building to know it too. I guess that makes them think they'll get a better show, or something. Not from me, buddy. Get smartassed with me and I'll rip your lips off.

The best way to show you're smart is to act smart. Don't be overly confident in approaching me (I'm really a pussycat of a guy). Don't be too anxious to show off your knowledge. I'll ask your opinion if I want it after I find out you know what's going on. The best way to come up to me is the way one fan did it. He came up and said, "Mr. So and So (I like being called Mister), May I have your autograph. Please? (I like the word "please" too)." After I handed him the program back he asked if I'd had a chance to see the latest Observer yet and said he had an extra copy if I wanted. He handed it to me and walked away. Remember the Mean Joe Green commercial for Coke? I ended up taking the guy to supper.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

You'll remember when Turner was negotiating to buy the NWA a few months back how the day to day news changed that frequently? Things are changing just as rapidly nowadays even after Ted Turner is in control. And unless someone steps in and takes control, things may spin completely out of control.

Morale here is as down as it was before the sale, possibly more so. From what I can piece together, Dusty Rhodes has officially walked out of the promotion, leaving his job as booker up in the air. He began no showing on tour about the time last issue went out, but the official word is that he is sick, though no official announcement is being made at arenas where he's scheduled to wrestle. The big question is "why?". Well, every time he came up with a new angle or idea, he would be over ridden with a veto, wither by Jack Petrick, the guy in charge of the NWA after the buyout, or by one of the wrestlers involved in the angle. With wrestlers being able to veto ideas, that took every bit of power that Dusty had away from him.

An example. Dusty has Starrcade all worked out on paper. Less than six weeks away from showtime, Petrick comes in and scraps the whole idea. Every angle, including the Express Wars, is down the drain. Dusty starts piecing things back together again, and everytime he does, something comes up to block his idea. Flair refused to drop the belt to the wrestler Dusty had in mind. Petrick stood behind Flair instead of his booker.

One thing Mr. Petrick is going to have to learn is this...if he puts someone in charge (which is what the booker is supposed to be), he has to stand behind that person until he decided to either fire the booker or until the booker resigns. Undermining everything the person in charge is doing is just plain bad business whether you run a wrestling promotion, a factory or a small retail store.

For those of you who are picking yourselves up off the floor at the thought of me defending Dusty, I'm not. I think he should have been replaced as booker a long time ago. I just don't like the way it was handled. If Petrick's long range goal was to replace him, then go in and fire the man up front. Don't play games. The way it was done hurt the promotion and it is/was very important to gets things off on a positive note. That was not done and the hopes of the wrestlers that things would be better seem to have been dashed from the beginning. Not good. Not good at all.

I have some late word in that Dusty may have the chance to come back, but if he does, some major league butt kissing is going to be in order. Somehow, I just can't see Dusty doing that. Dusty is headed ...no where. He had planned on using World Class as a back up promotion in case things went south with the NWA but Jarrett's purchase of the World Class stock has ended those thoughts. Dusty's son is working Florida so we could see him pop up there to stick his face in, but don't count on that either.

Meanwhile the angles that were being set up over the next few weeks have been blown right out of the water. This past weekend they announced that Road Warrior Animal would have to wrestle Dusty Rhodes on the December 7th Clash of Champions special. This was to determine the new six man champs. They used the reasoning that the Warriors held part of the title and Rhodes held part of the title so the winner of this match would get to pick his partner or partners to hold the belt with him. If you think about it, this is kind of dumb anyway since the NWA has this rule that says that one person or team can't hold more than one belt or title at a time. That means Dusty would have been winning this match which would prove to be even more interesting since I seriously doubt that we'd see a Warrior doing a job on national TV. Hawk did one a long time ago (quick...for who?) during a TV tournament

when it was Championship Wrestling from Georgia (Tim Horner).

Take the 6th paragraph and forget it. Dusty is back and I guess he was sick (blue flu). They worked out something of a compromise and he's still in charge...temporarily. I would guess what he has planned will change all that.

They did an angle this weekend that has been in the works for quite some time. Dusty came out and challenged the Road Warriors right then and there. The Warriors obliged and beat Dusty up pretty good. They double teamed him and didn't give him much of a chance to do anything offensive, but what they did to him was pretty offensive. Animal took one of the spikes off his shoulder pads and they ground it into Dusty's eye. Yech. It reminded me of the Bash show in Chicago when Ric Flair did that to Animal. Anyhow, they made a big thing out of Dusty losing the eye and how David VCrockett was on his way to the hospital to check on Dusty's condition. Now we know why they are calling Starrcade "True Gritt" (but no clue as to why the extra T on Grit). Remember the movie of the same name starring John Wayne as Rooster Cogburn. He won an Oscar for the role and the character he played had only one eye with a patch over the other. So, it looks like Dusty and probably Sting will have a shot at the Roadies at Starrcade.

They have announced other matches for the December 26th show and they are the Original Midnight Express against the Extra Crispy Midnight Express (no doubt if Colonel Sanders was still alive, he'd be special ref - oops sorry...wrong promotion); Ivan and Nikita vs the Russian Assassins with the Assassins having to unmask and Paul Jones to retire if they lose (I'll personally help the Assassins lose if the latter is the case); a bunkhouse stampede (with the probable winner announced in a few minutes); Rotundo vs Steiner for the TV title; and Flair vs Luger with some special stipps as well (I look for them to announce that this one has to have a winner and this will be the last time they meet).

As for the bunkhouse stampede, they have announced Doc, Abby, Murdoch, the Commandos (more in a minute) as participants so far. I understand that a certain Dustin Rhodes will make his NWA debut here and win the thing. Hopefully this is just a vicious rumor, but it's Dusty's chance to get his son over in case his days are numbered. I don't even want to think about what would happen if this is true.

The Shepherders have left and are headed Titan bound. Explaining their departure has been interesting. The tournament for the US tag belts had come down to them and the Fantastics with the finals to take place on the December 7th TBS special. With them leaving though, they had to concoct a senario where Eddie Gilbert and Ron Simmons had been given a reversed decision victory over them after the NWA board of advisors reviewed films of the match they had. It was ruled that the Sheeps had used a foreign object and therefore the match on December 7th will be between the Fantastics and Simmons & Gilbert. The did one of those "box on the screen" interviews with Gilbert and Simmons making the announcement and both of them claiming that the match will be a scientific match up...well sort of. Gilbert told Simmons that they and the Fantastics were good friends but during the match they would have to pull out all the stops. Simmons agreed, but mentioned that it would be a clean match to which Gilbert nodded half heartedly and said, "Yeah, right." Most people will be looking for Gilbert to turn heel here and quite frankly, so am I, but I also would not be surprised if this was one of the many swerves that will be tossed our way since Gilbert has some influence. He likes to shock people and in all possibility, it could be the Fantastics who do the turning here. Since neither is set for a Starrcade match, we won't know for sure.

Another thing the boys are upset about involves the new managements demands that they move to Atlanta. The promotion has not really enforced the rule except subtly when it comes to air travel. One of the things they are doing is booking wrestlers on flights that both originate and terminate (is that the right word? I've never flown commercially) in Atlanta. For those who insist on living in Charlotte, that's fine, but they have to find their own way to and from Atlanta. They can fly back to Charlotte if they like, but they pick up their own cost.

Another restriction that's been made that will no doubt cause some hard feelings very soon involves the managers. Managers, Cornette and Dangerously included, were told that unless their men were headlining a card, then the promotion would not pay their way. Not long after this mandate came down, Sir Oliver Humperdink accompanied Bam Bam Bigelow to the ring in a town where Bigelow was the second match on the card. Nothing like consistency.

My whole feeling about the NWA at this point is negative in case you couldn't tell. The change was supposed to have brought good things. No one expected an immediate change and that's understandable. But no one expected such incompetency at the beginning either. Jack Petrick is getting a hands on education and it may prove to be an expensive one. One wrestler told me that he is using the newsletter almost exclusively to make decision, and although I can't see him doing that, I sure hope that he doesn't. Newsletter editors are just fans with typewriters and big mouths. It's easy to sit here and type out scenarios and criticize when you're not involved. I have a fundamental knowledge of how the wrestling business works and why. I have some more knowledge in how any business works. It all comes down to pleasing the customer which is in this case, the fans. Not the inside fans that read the newsletters but the fans who sit in the arenas night after night spending their money to see your product. Get their opinion and listen. Really listen. Read your mail. Have fan participation things like letting them pick the matches they'd like to see and don't wimp out by rigging the contest. Do it for real. Give your fans the best treatment and they'll be back. Rip them off by overcharging them or letting the guys work half assed and that'll show too. Keep your wrestlers happy, but don't be afraid to show leadership. Pretend that every single show is the biggest one you've ever done and that tomorrow night depends on tonight...because it does.

Whew! I didn't mean to do that. Let's cover some other things.

The Commandos. That just happens to not only be the name of the Knoxville Blue Bullets biggest and most hated high school rivals, it's also the name of the new tag team in the NWA. One is Ray Candy and the other is Grizzly Boone. Both weigh in the neighborhood of 400 pounds and their finishing move is a double big splash. I think they're heels, but so far no one's had the guts to ask.

With the addition of the Commandos, Abdullah, Bigelow to Dusty and all, it looks like the NWA has stopped raiding other wrestling promotions and started raiding Overeaters Anonymous meetings. Larry Lovell suggests we call the team of Dusty and Bigelow the "Obesity Club."

rip Morgan has decided to stick around and you can bet your bottom dollar he'll be doing jobs for everyone. I seriously doubt if they even mention that he used to be the Sheepherder's flag bearer, but still he'll be beaten on just as if he still was.

MEMPHIS/WORLD CLASS

In what could be the story of the decade, the biggest secret in wrestling has been exposed.

It happened in Las Vegas in a match between Kerry Von Erich and Colonel DeBeers. The match poured out of the ring and DeBeers was tugging on Kerry's foot, dragging him around. The foot he had a hold of was Kerry's bad foot, the one he supposedly had a fused ankle on. DeBeers tugged a bit too hard and Kerry's boot came off and Kerry went nuts! What was revealed to ringsiders and a horrified DeBeers is that Kerry's foot had been amputated!

Stop reading for just a second and catch your breath in case you're one of the few who hadn't heard already.

Kerry scrambled and got his foot under the ring apron to hide it while he got his boot back. This came completely out of the blue as only a handful of wrestlers knew about it. Kerry always roomed alone on the road (as a matter of fact, when we were in Memphis, he didn't even stay at the same hotel as the other Texas wrestlers). In the locker room, he always kept his boots on, even while showering explaining the curious habit by telling others that he needed the special reinforcement for his ankle. I was told some time ago by a very drunk wrestler that he had had his foot amputated (along with a bunch of other gibberish that drunk wrestlers often spew forth), but needless to say, it was so incredible that I didn't believe it at the time, nor did I even log it in my memory (the thing I do with all the homosexual wrestlers making it in a hotel pool type stories...that is, fail to log them).

The boot came off easily since there was no foot to hold the boot on. As I understand it, the heel is still there but nothing forward of that. We noticed in Memphis that he was able to bend the ankle that was supposedly fused, and we couldn't figure that out. This solves that mystery. I don't know what the reaction of Kerry or the promotion will be at this point, or if they will acknowledge the incident or not. I don't know if it will be shown on TV or not either, but I would hope not, if just for the sake of Kerry's fans. But, since the tape was done by Verne, you never know.

In other news here concerning Memphis, World Class and the AWA (we've combined reports because of the cooperation...if after the PPV show things break apart, the AWA will return to their own page), there are several comings and goings to report. First off, Ron Garvin is definitely gone and it's doubtful if he'll stick around to drop the strap (TV Title) to Greg at Superclash. He wanted to, but Vince may have put the damper on that idea. Right now, the AWA has a back up plan as they have been saying that the tapes of the Garvin win have been reviewed. They could reverse the decision if Garvin leaves before December 13. Now get this...my source swears this is true. Verne was talking with some guys about who they could get to replace Garvin in a title match with Greg. The wrestler would of course have to do the job for Greg which makes the list of candidates rather small. Verne said, "I'll bet we could get Adonis to do it." A hush fell over the room before someone spoke up and said, "He's dead, Verne." Verne replied, "Damn." Nice to be in touch with reality, huh?

Last issue we talked about Downtown Bruno departing and now I've been informed of the whole story. If he does go, it'll just be to Texas, which Jarrett owns anyway.

Eric Embry's babyface turn is doing okay. To heat things up a bit they've had Skandor Akbar place a \$50,000 bounty on his head.

Back to AWA comings and goings. Medusa Micili has given notice. She had the gall to ask for a guarantee. We all know what happens to wrestlers who ask Verne for a commitment. No word where she'll end up.

Larry the Butcher Cameron will be making his AWA debut (actually he's worked before, but not according to the promotion) as a heel. He's got the potential to be one of the biggest heels in the sport. Larry is a master at creating instant heat. I've seen him work several times live (including the one time I managed him) and I don't know how he does it but when he comes into an arena, all he needs is about 60 seconds to have everyone who was cheering him, booing him.

Meanwhile, the World Class TV show is quickly becoming the Memphis TV show. A lot of the program is now tapes of Memphis based wrestlers in an attempt to get them over with the Texas fans. Jarret's promotion most closely resembles Bill Watts' old Mid South with the action, brawls and blood so this could open up some new markets like the Houston area if he plays his cards right.

Someone just told me the stip for the "naughty lingerie battle royal" on the PPV show. I guess I hadn't been paying attention. The way the girls will be eliminated will be when they have all their clothes ripped off. Looks like Verne is going after the perverted market with this idea.

Kendall Windham is leaving World Class already and looks like he will surface in the NWA again. Blackjack Mulligan has made some Texas appearances as well, but now that Kendall is gone, it's not known if he'll stick around or if they will even want him.

In a smart move, it looks like the AWa has insisted that the PPV event be blacked out throughout Illinois. At least that's the excuse my cable company gave me when I tried to order it. Makes a lot of sense. I would have been willing to pay \$15 for the show, but I'll be damned if I'll take a night off work and drive 200 miles to see the show then spend the night in a motel room! Last report from the ticket office shows that fewer than 1000 advance tickets had been sold. Part of the reason seems to be the lack of coverage of the AWA in the television market in Chicago.

Windy City will hold a card in Chicago on December 10 at St Florian Grade School (13100 S Houston Ave). No outside talent will be brought in for this show. They start on Sportsvision January 6 at 10:30 pm.

CLASS ACT OF THE MONTH
November 1988

11

As far as I'm concerned, there is only one nomination worth considering this time around. We already told you about Kerry Von Erich and his amputated foot. Can you think of any more gutsy individual in wrestling today? We've covered already the reasons behind him hiding his problem all this time, but on the positive side, he came out and gave it his all when it would have been just as easy to lie down and quit. He hid his disability in fear that fans and wrestlers alike would ridicule him. Although we can't condone the fact that he lied to the fans and the press by telling them he had a "fused ankle", we must applaud his courage that he has displayed by making a comeback. When one thinks of Jim McMahon of the Chicago Bears and the way he benches himself over a broken toenail, Kerry's courage is magnified to proportions beyond the call of natural duty. We question his methods, but salute the end results.

DIPSTICK OF THE MONTH
November 1988

I don't see a copyright notice anywhere on this next publication, so let me quote, verbatim:

THE FAN'S ADVOCATE

During the past few weeks, we have received a number of complaints from current and former members of the WFIA who attended one of the two so called "fans conventions" since July. Although these two events were sponsored by different groups, the complaints are similar. The complaints chiefly related to the cost of attendance, hotel selection, meals, scheduled events which were not held, etc... Many fans left feeling deceived and cheated.

We're not surprised that many of those attending the so-called conventions left unhappy. The sponsors of both events have no experience holding conventions & are not very well connected within the pro wrestling community. Although one of the groups did seek WFIA participation, WFIA did not sanction either event.

We recognize from our own experiences that planning a successful event requires much hard work and close attention to detail. In spite (sic) of one's best efforts, even a well planned event may be criticized. Still, those who sponsored these two fiascos weren't honest with the fans. We can excuse incompetence, not dishonesty.

We feel it's important that fans have an opportunity to meet regularly and are very concerned at the potential negative impact which may result from the unethical conduct of some very greedy people. In order to avoid being ripped off, it is wise to examine the track record of those sponsoring any event. The best way to do this is to request references and or check with the WFIA headquarters. We closely monitor all such events so that we can best protect the interests of our membership.

This swill comes from the current WFIA newsletter as produced by Jim "Be sure I'm in every single picture" Ross (not the announcer). His childlike ramblings reek of jealousy and had names been used, liable. For a man who promises four magazines a year and delivers two, and still continues to charge full membership dues, he has no room to talk. Evidently these are the ramblings of a madman who realizes his days at the helm of a once prestigious organization are waning. For those who still profess loyalty to the WFIA, we hope that you can now see the extent that this man will lie boldly in an attempt to influence those with no ability to clearly rationalize for themselves. Somehow "Dipstick" just doesn't quite accurately describe this month's winner.

MEMORIES OF WITSCHI'S

BY KEN STEINER

12

There used to be a place in North Attleborough, MA called Jack Witschi's. It was a ramshackle old building, that looked like it should have been condemned years ago. One sign in front of the building read "Flea Market every Sat. and Sun,"; however, the neon sign on the side of the building offered "Wrestling every Fri. night-World's Fastest Sport". The sign was great-the neon would flip back and forth to give the illusion of a wrestler putting a headlock on another wrestler.

Indeed, there was WWF wrestling every Friday night at Witschi's, and I was fortunate enough to attend many cards during the 1970's. Witschi's was a great place to attend wrestling matches, as the worst seat in the house would be equivalent to ten rows back in the cavernous Boston Garden, and the ring side seats-well, there was a toothless old lady who would always be sitting in the front row, and she would be pounding her fist on the ring mat whenever a heel would use an under-handed trick to get an advantage over the babyface. Witschi's even smelled right. The smell of French fries and popcorn and beer made it feel like an old time fight hall, with all the locals ready to do some good old fashioned yelling to let off steam from the drudgery of the week's labor.

All the stars of the WWWF with the exception of Bruno Sammartino would appear at Witschi's from time to time. In addition, the WWWF jobbers would usually appear in the opening matches, and put on some great matches. In no particular order, here are some of the memories I have of Friday's at Witschi's:

A young babyface Kevin Sullivan hitting Pete Doherty over the head with a chair outside the ring, and then executing a suplex on the floor. Back then, a suplex was a rare move, and this was maybe the third suplex I'd ever seen.

Bruiser Brody and Ivan Putski swinging folding chairs at each other. One of the chairs broke, and a piece went flying off, hitting a spectator in the leg.

Andre the Giant carefully picking up Bugsy McGraw for a bodyslam. The overhead lights at Witschi's were so low that Andre could have easily put out the lights with Bugsy's head.

Tatsumi Fujinami wrestling a 270 lb. jobber named Moose Monroe. I remember not being too impressed with Fujinami, but retrospectively, it was just a case of a poor matchup.

All the kids would always run up to the wrestlers for autographs, but the heels, staying in persona, would just throw the papers away. Once however, Billy Graham just picked up one of the kids with one arm and it made me think what a great guy he must be. That kid probably remembers that moment to this day.

A Texas death match between Chief Jay Strongbow and Stan Hansen. This the only real death match I have ever seen where pinfalls don't count. There was great heat in this one, and Stan finally couldn't answer the bell after being knocked out by the sleeper. I think Hansen scored about eight falls, while Jay had about four. When stars' contracts were ending, they often would do jobs at Witschi's for the WWWF resident guys like Strongbow, Gorilla Monsoon, and even Tony Garea.

In the late 70's Lou Albano brought in a masked wrestler billed as The Golden Terror. I couldn't figure out who he was, and mosey people thought it was Johnny Valiant, although it was obvious it wasn't. One night at Witschi's I was watching the Terror when a lady next to me told me the Terror was Pete Doherty. It is hard to explain the revelation I had as it seemed the Terror's mask had just been ripped off to reveal the familiar toothless grin. (In these days with the various newsletters, readers know who's behind the mask before the wrestler even appears with it).

Seeing Crusher Blackwell execute that amazing bump against Haystacks Calhoun, where he would run into the ringpost, miss his opponent who had moved out of the way, and do a flip out of the ring. Very flashy for a 400 pounder!

Tony Garea and Mr. Fuji having a match when Garea accidentally pulled Fuji's tights down. They started to laugh, the fans started to laugh, and Garea and Fuji must have laughed for five minutes before they could finally settle down.

S.D. Jones getting a clean pinfall over Scandor Akbar. This was one of only two times that I have ever seen a jobber get a clear win over a star. Akbar was just finishing up commitments and wasn't that big a star, but still it was an actual upset.

Sylvano Souza, a WWF jobber from nearby East Providence, RI being exhorted by friends with the cheer "E PROV HIGH. E PROV HIGH".

Dewey Robertson was in the WWF for a short time in the late '70s. I don't think Vince Sr. was particularly happy with Robertson, and he had to go to a draw with the aforementioned Moose Monroe, a wrestler several levels down the totem pole. This was quite a surprise since we were sure that Robertson was getting some sort of push. Robertson left soon after this match.

I suspect that the wrestling at Witschi's must have been a lot like going to the CWA or CWF cards when they play the small towns. Witschi's burned down several years ago, and the WWF dropped a "W" and doesn't play small houses like Witschi's anymore. So it goes.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO A GUEST FEATURE FOR THE Forum? Be our guest.

Please try to limit your article to two pages of single spaced type and send it along. We'll use them as we have space.

year end awards

I don't know if I've got room here or not but we'll try...Here are the rules: 1. If you can read this sentence, you are eligible to vote. 2. To help us process votes, please vote by number and category title. 3. You may vote for up to three choices in each category. First place gets three points, 2nd two points and 3rd one point.. 4. Voting ends December 31st and votes received after that date WILL NOT COUNT. 5. Comments along with your votes are welcome and selected comments will be used in the 1988 Yearbook. 6. The winners only will be announced in the January 15th edition of the Forum. Complete results will be listed in the yearbook. 7. Time period covered by votes is November 15, 1987-December 30th, 1988 (there is an overlap). 8. Mail your ballots to our Knoxville address ATTENTION BALLOTS. Here are the 1988 categories by title and number only:

1-MAN OF THE YEAR; 2-Wrestler of the Year (vote for the year's top ten wrestlers here please. 1st place gets 10 points and on down to number ten which gets one point); 3-ROOKIE OF THE YEAR; 4-PROMOTION OF THE YEAR; 5-WORST PROMOTION; 6-TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR; 7-MOST OVERRATED; 8-MOST UNDERRATED; 9-MATCH OF THE YEAR (include date if you can); 10-ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR; 11-COLOR COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR; 12-JOBBER OF THE YEAR; 13-ANGLE OF THE YEAR; 14-FEUD OF THE YEAR; 15-DUMBEST ANGLE; 16-DUMBEST FEUD OF THE YEAR; 17-WORST WRESTLER; 18-BEST BAYFACE; 19-BEST HEEL; 20-MANAGER OF THE YEAR; 21-DIPSTICK OF THE YEAR; 22-BEST TV SHOW; 23-MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER; 24-BEST FINISHING MANEUVER (be sure to include wrestler who uses it); 25-WORST FINISHING MANEUVER (ditto); 26-BEST INTERVIEW; 27-MOST DISGUSTING EVENT; 28-BEST NEWSSTAND MAGAZINE; 29-BIGGEST SHOCK; 30-WORST ANNOUNCER; 31-BEST MAJOR SHOW;

Remember, if you want a complete list of descriptions, send along a SASE and I'll rush you last issue's centerfold listing everything you need to know.

PENCIL POINTS

WHAT IS A ROOKIE?

Before casting my votes in the year end awards, I'd like to know about a couple of guys that could or might not be considered rookies. How about Cactus Jack Foley? He wrestled for a lot of independents out east before going to Memphis. In fact, he's been wrestling for quite a few years. How about Larry CVameron? Has he wrestled anywhere major enough to be considered a rookie? Also, there are several wrestlers and events I'd like to put on my ballot, but they come from the smaller promotions. It's not fair that even though some of the best feuds of the year (case in point Pritchard vs Dirty White Boy) won't get many votes because not many people see them. Do I vote for that one (which I think was in the top three) or do I vote for those which should win because everyone will vote for them?

-ERIC HOYME-

-Indianapolis, IN-

EDITOR: Cactus Jack can be considered a rookie, Larry Cameron will probably be eligible next year. Even though both wrestled for quite a few years, I consider the independent promotions to be the "farm system" of the major promotions. A baseball player who spends six years in the minors can still be called a rookie when brought up to the main club. Same goes here. As for your votes, please vote for whatever you feel was the best (or worst as the case may be). In the yearbook, each and every vote is accounted for so your voice, however soft, will be heard.

BEST INTERVIEW

There has been discussion for some time as to who does the best interview, either Jim Cornette or Paul E Dangerously. There has also been a lot of talk that Paul E copied his style from Jim. I think that having them both in the same promotion now does two things. First, it shows us once and for all who the best interview is (Cornette) and how far behind him number two really is, and two, it proves that Paul certainly is not a Jim Cornette clone. If anything, Paul E reminds me of Roddy Piper when he first came to the WWF in the role of a manager.

-C. M. MOORE-

-Philadelphia, PA-

RANDOM THOUGHTS

I am finding it harder to watch the WWF because it is such an obvious joke. The best wrestling is wrestling that looks real; the best angles are the ones that look plausible. McMahon's skits and angles aren't as bad as they were a few years ago, but since his advent I feel the WWF has largely become a waste of my time. McMahon doesn't respect the fans. I can live with that because we fans don't demand a good product. But he doesn't respect wrestling as a business with a history. That I have trouble living with. The business had its ups and downs before McMahon. Sometimes the angles were silly, but the principles tried to carry them off as seriously as possible. McMahon is a parody. His promotion makes little attempt to help fans willingly suspend disbelief. Therefore, most everything associated with the WWF is an embarrassment.

Why are good announcers so hard to find? They're not. The promoters just don't care. The best announcer in the last 28 years was Larry Matysik of the Sam Munchnik promotion in St. Louis. He was articulate and he actually called the match in the ring. Of course he promoted future cards, but he did it subtly and naturally, not like some damned carnival barker. Most of today's announcers know next to nothing about wrestling itself, they don't care to learn, and they lack speaking skills

-DR. DON G SMITH-

-Webster, NY-

EXPLOITING BRODY

I had a chance to see the special on FNN that was to be a tribute to Bruiser Brody. I looked closely at the end to see if I could see McMahon's name in the credits. The thing was such an exploitation of Brody's death that I was sure that I would find McMahon's name. I can't believe that the thing they were most concerned with was selling the tape of Brody. I'm told Barbara and Geoffry will get a small cut, but that they were not contacted beforehand. It's too bad that someone couldn't do something to stop this kind of thing.

-NAMEWITHHELD BY REQUEST-

EDITOR: There is. Don't buy the tape.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Somehow, I've survived another Survivor Series. Actually, since I'm writing this Thursday afternoon, I haven't survived yet, but that's only a minor technicality. There's lots of news to get to before the SS report, so let's do that first.

There are some new faces headed this way, the main ones being the Bushwhackers. They were pretty tight on the identities of these two but it finally leaked out. They are none other than the Shepherders. The Shepherders? As babyfaces? I think someone's been smoking those left handed cigarettes again.

John Studd is slated to begin working again, sometime in January or February. I'm not sure they really wanted him again, but they had heard strong rumors that he may have been considering signing with the NWA and they had to do something to stop that. All preliminary rumors coming from this signing seem to indicate that he'll be in as a babyface and will feud with Andre. Though too early to tell for sure, I would look for this one (if it comes off) to culminate at Wrestlemania V with Studd helping Andre to turn babyface to end his career.

The Hogan-Bossman feud is going over like we never thought it could. They have managed to put heat back on Hogan with the skit they did with Bossman handcuffing him to the guard rail. The result is impressive. How about a sellout in St Louis where wrestling has been dead for the past few years. The rest of the country is producing similar impressive numbers and will lend credence to those who want to see the Hulkster with the belt back around his waist. Savage, in the meantime, with no impressive feud going on, is drawing "alright" numbers. They will match him up against Bad News Brown in the next few weeks pending the skit involved with Brown, Brother Love and Jack Tunney this weekend.. They will make the mistake, of course, of comparing the two feuds for drawing power which will be worse than comparing apples and concrete blocks.

Okay, let's get on to the Survivor Series. Things opened up with Beefcake, Dingbat, Brunzell, Houston and Blue Blazer vs Ron Bass, Honky Tonk Man, Valentine, Bad News Brown and Danny Davis. Davis was the first to go when he was put to sleep by Beefcake. Brown then pinned Brunzell. Brown then eliminated himself by taking a walk after Greg Valentine accidentally hit him as he held someone else. Brown was counted out officially. Bass then eliminated Houston with a pin. Next, Blue Blazer submitted to a Valentine figure four (major surprise to me). Beefy and HTM continued their feud by being counted out, thus eliminating both. Warrior (Dingbat) was left two on one against Bass and Valentine. Bass was the first to go followed by Greg and both by pins. Your winner (certainly not mine) for the first match then is Ultimate Dingbat.

This was followed by the tag team match in which Powers of Pain captained the babyface team of the Hart Foundation, Powers and Roma, the Rockers and the Bulldogs against Demolition (Captains) and their heel team of Blanchard and Anderson, the Rougeaus, Zhukov and Volkoff, and the Conquistadors. This match was filled with some unexpected happenings. Bret eliminated the Rougeaus by pinning Raymond to start things off. Powers and Roma were the next team to go when Boris pinned Powers. Boris himself then made an exit for himself and Nicolai by getting pinned by Marty Jannetty of the Rockers. The next pin was Blanchard eliminating the Hart Foundation by pinning Bret in a pretty good move. Bret did a belly to back suplex off the middle ropes and a double pin resulted (remember Moolah-Richter?) with Blanchard raising his shoulder at the last second. Then, both the Brain Busters and the Rockers were DQ'd in the middle of the ring for refusing to quit fighting. Smash pinned Dynamite Kid to take care of the Bulldogs. Now comes the angle. Mr. Fuji had been up on the ring apron several times with Gorilla claiming

that he was going to use his cane on someone. Most people figured that he would clobber one of his own guys and they weren't far off. As one of the POP whipped Smash into the ropes, Fuji separated them so that Smash went sailing on through. He was counted out as Axe took up the issue with Fuji. Fuji hit Axe with the cane when he turned his back and continued to beat him until Smash made the save. With Demolition counted out, this left only Powers of Pain vs the Conquistadors. Fuji stayed at ringside with Powers and when Estrada went to rebound off the ropes, Fuji tripped him and Barbarian pinned him. Fuji then went into the ring to congratulate Powers and they accepted him. Demolition hit the ring and cleaned house after that.

Some comments before we go on. This wasn't as good as match as the tag team event last year. The main purpose of this match was to tell a story. A couple of stories as a matter of fact. The main one of course was to do the double turn (Demo to faces and POP to heels). We didn't get to see any kind of a shoot between the Rougeaus and the Bulldogs as many had hoped for. The rockers and Brain Busters got to intensify their feud that will be starting and continuing over the next couple of months. The problem was that the live crowd in Cleveland (excuse me, SUBURBAN Cleveland) popped when Powers won the thing and booed when Demolition did the run in at the end.. Titan is going to have to work hard to get this one over, me thinks.

The third match of the night had Dino Bravo and Andre with Rude, Hennig and Race against Jake and Duggan with Santana, Patera and Scott Casey (replacing a very upset Brian Blair though Lanny Poffo had been originally scheduled to replace him). The heels took an early advantage with Rude pinning Patera and Bravo pinning Casey. Santana then took out Harley Race (who looked good after surgery), but Andre made it four on two by ousting Santana. Duggan was the next to go on a dq for using his 2 x 4 leaving Jake alone against the trio of Andre, Hennig and Bravo. Andre got himself DQ'd by refusing to release a choke on Jake, but the choke hurt Jake enough that when Andre finally exited, Henning jumped in and pinned Jake immediately leaving Curt and Bravo as the survivors for match three.

The main event was wild and almost hard to follow. It saw Savage and Hogan with Hercules, Hillbilly Jim, and Koko vs Bossman, Akeem and partners DiBiase, Red Rooster and Haku. Savage got the first pin on Taylor before the heels took over. Akeem pinned Hillbilly, Bossman took out Koko and Ted eliminated Hercules. Almost immediately following that pin, Savage snuck up behind DiBiase and cradled him to leave him and Hogan against the big men and Haku. This is where things got going. Bossman got himself counted out of the ring when he handcuffed Hogan to the ring ropes outside. On the inside, Savage is getting the holy snot beat out of him by Akeem and Haku (I'm starting to think that whoever came up with some of these names let their two year old get hold of their typewriter). Savage wants to tag, but Hogan can't. Bossman gets back in the ring and he and Akeem beat on Savage causing Akeem to be DQ'd. this (officially) leaves Savage against Haku with Hogan handcuffed. Haku went to kick Savage as Slick held him but Randy moved and Slick caught the kick instead. As Heenan went over to help Slick, Hogan (who could still move but only on the arena floor) clotheslined Heenan. Liz then gets in Slick's pocket and gets the key to the handcuffs out. She releases Hogan and he gets the tag in, cleans up with Haku and finishes him off with a leg bomb. The after match celebration saw Hogan give Liz a little hug and Randy give Hogan a real dirty look.

As for the card itself, it was tons better than the last few PPV cards Titan has done. I enjoyed it from what I saw of it. I had planned on going back and watching it at my leisure on tape but somehow the "record button" never got pressed. This report was based on what I casually watched (in other words I tended to tune out the bring parts)

and on a phoned in report from ever faithful UAWF trivia champ Randy Smith. From the other people I've talked to, everyone seems to be in agreement that the guys went all out work wise and that it was a good show. A couple of Titanites called and said that they felt it was their best effort since Wrestlemania III. From my own point of view I'd rate it about that high, but slightly under last year's effort. On a whole I gave the show a B- (not bad for a whole entire show). I didn't rate each match due to my lack of attention through each one.

If this wasn't enough, the second Saturday Night's Main Event took place this weekend as well. It wasn't very well publicized (our TV Guide didn't even carry the usual half page ad for it) and after seeing the show I can see why they didn't want anyone to know about it.

It started off with the Ultimate Dingbat defending the IC title against Super Ninja. When I first saw this match listed in the TV guide, I got very concerned that maybe the WWF had signed Keiji Mutoh or Shunji Takano to do jobs or something. After seeing the match, looking closely at the character and talking with a few people, we can't be for sure, but I would guess it was jobber-supreme Billy Anderson under the hood. It wasn't anything more than a squash match and got a D- only because of whoever it was under the mask.

Next up was Hercules vs Virgil. Soul Train hasn't learned much yet (a hopeless case?) except how to fall down a lot. In all honesty, he is much better than when he arrived and is probably out of the top ten worst wrestlers, but still nothing to write home about. It opened with Herc being double teamed and him clearing the ring. They had lots of missed moves and you could see Herc trying desperately to call the match. It ended with a stampede move followed by Herc tossing Virgil into DiBiase's arms outside the ring. Ted verbally and physically abused Virgil all the way back to the dressing room and if you smell a turn coming, chalk up one for you. Probably about Wrestlemania time. Grade: D.

Savage did an interesting interview making it seem that he wants to be as good as champ as Hogan. It was almost like he was tired of living in Hogan's shadow. He said that Hogan had been a great champion and had beaten the Giant so he (Randy) had to too.

Randy's match with Andre was watchable, but that's about it. It was good when Randy was on the offensive as he worked hard and fast with a continuous assault. Andre's rest holds were cleverly disguised but still present. Andre put the strap from his tights around Randy's neck for a couple of minutes. Halfway through the match, Randy went back on the offense and the crowd popped big time. Then Jake came to the ring and hid Damien under the ring. This, I think was done so they could go to commercial. The ref made him go back (leaving the snake) and Randy and he looked to argue for a moment before it became apparent that Jake had just told him where the snake was. Heenan kept looking for it and finally got it and headed back to the dressing room with it only to be stopped by Jake. Hennan headed for the ring and the referee called for the quickest DQ in history. Randy caught Heenan and whipped him in to Andre which led to Andre tying himself up in the ropes. Jake got Damien out and Heenan managed to get Andre loose and Andre did the collapse routine on the way back to the dressing room. Sorry folks, but this wasn't very good. Orce again, they undermined Randy as champion by giving him help. The match itself, though watchable, earns no more than a D+ and that's being generous.

Here comes another atrocity. Jim Duggan vs Boris Zhukov in a flag match. Duggan won it with a spear and then saluted an American Flag as they played the National Anthem. The match was a D-, but I downgraded it to an F for Duggan sticking out his tongue during the anthem and biting it. Pretty poor, Maynard.

Brother Love then had Hogan scheduled as a guest. He did the introductio

like it was Hogan and then brought out Slick. Hogan then stormed the ring and Brother Love and Slick hogged the mike. Hogan finally got it and did the same thing. Then he went after Slick and tossed him out of the ring. Love hit Hogan from behind and Hulk grabbed him, Body Slammed him, then handcuffed him to the ropes. After a few "ear cups" he the rebounded off the ropes and clotheslined Love over the top rope. Bruce took a nice bump, but not a good enough one to save this garbage. I won't even grade the skit...it was that bad.

Finally, we get the best match of the night, unfortunately, I would imagine most people have given up and went to bed already. It featured the Rougeaus (now residing in Memphis TN...they must have heard how much fun we had down there) vs Roma and Powers. It was decent and fast paced. The Stallions seem to continue to improve little by little. The Rougeaus won it with a crotch catcher after the referee turned his back. I gave the match a C+.

All in all, this had to be about the worst SNME that I've seen. It was almost like Titan was just trying to fill a contract for a show without putting forth very much effort. I'm sure the casual fans enjoyed it, if nothing else because of the match ups involved. But...of well, I've said enough.

I got a chance to see the Brother Love skit we described to you last time with Bad News Brown and Jack Tunney. Jack is in serious need of some acting lessons. I swear I could almost hear him reading stage directions off cue cards ("Put hands on Brown"). But it should serve its purpose in getting Brown over with the fans.

It would seem from preliminary reports that the Savage Brown thing is going two rounds in major cities with Savage getting counted out the first time around and the second match having the stipulation that the title can change hands on a count out. Savage pins Brown in the second meetings.

Not much happened at the latest set of tapings in Sacramento and San Francisco other than the reappearance of Harley Race. Race came back and as you can guess, demanded his crown back. I understand that his return is going to be very short lived before booted upstairs.

Ken Patera, one of the fired/let go wrestlers that we reported on last time has been offered a front office job with Titan and let's all hope that he takes it less we be spared his ring work for another promotion.

Don Muracco, who was let go in Paris, is not going to work for anyone major. Word is that he will work some independent dates in the Northeast in direct competition with McMahon. Savoldi? That would be my first guess.

JYD will probably end up in Calgary. Pitiful. He had called just about everyone in the business and they were the only ones who were even remotely interested. I was told that Verne pretended he had never heard of him.

Maybe he wasn't pretending.

Owen Hart is one of the unhappiest campers here. Reportedly he didn't like having to submit to Valentine in SS and he's been told he can't use the moonsault flip anymore. No reason why. I also understand that Owen had to do a job for Jose Estrada the other night as a punishment for something or other. It was on a card where no one could possibly find out though (except the sheets)

20

We have a couple of things to cover before we get into the in-ring action in Portland. First up, the Grappler will indeed be going to Japan for one week beginning on 12/3 and will actually challenge Tatsumi Fujinami for the NW title on the 5th in Nagoya. Secondly, Len Denton (Grappler) and Sandy Barr are negotiating to buy the British Columbia from Al Tomko which would expand the Owen territory, although B.C. crowds have been horrendous (as in sub-200 attendance in every town). The prize plum in the deal would be the TV slot, which airs on a powerful signal all over Canada.

The latest word on Mel Saraceno's Pacific Coast Wrestling Federation is that the opening date will be 12/3 at the Oregon City Civic Center, the building that formerly housed Billy Jack Haynes' OWF. Eugene and Salem are also scheduled to have weekly shows. Wrestlers in the group will be Moondog Moretti (who will be the booker), Coco Samoa, Tiger Chung Lee, Billy Two Eagles (a recent Owen loss). Buddy Wayne and the Riot Maker, among others.

Here are the highlights from 11/12. In the opening match between Al Madril and Mike Golden, Rex King was doing TV commentary when Buddy Rose (who has a scheduled hair vs. hair match against Top Gun on 11/26) interrupted and slugged King, who is out of action with a legit injury and was wearing a neck brace. Rose then DDT'd King and used scissors to cut some of his hair. Gun ran up for the save.

Gun was once again accompanied by the man under the sheet but said he was waiting for the following week to unveil him. Gun peeked under the sheet and shouted "they live!" to give the impression that it was Roddy Piper. We all knew it wouldn't be.

Abudda Dein faced Scott Peterson in a bout where the winner would give the loser ten lashes with a belt. Peterson scored the pinfall on Dein and administered 12 lashes and Grappler ran in and attacked! The two heels then hung Scott over the ropes with the belt until Doll made the save and pounded on Dein before the baddies high-tailed it out of there.

In a match to decide who goes to Japan to face Fujinami, Grappler pinned Gun when Buddy Rose appeared and distracted the hooded babyface. Then, Abudda Dein helped them hold Gun as Rose snipped away at the laces on Gun's mask. Other faces made the save and the heels fled.

On 11/19, King Mathew faced Gun in two out of three falls. The man in the sheet was at ringside and Borne went out and pulled the cover off--to reveal Art Barr. Borne posted Art and gloated that Gun was a fool to his fans now. In the second fall, as Borne struggled with ref Sandy Barr over a chair, someone again came out in a sheet and leaped to the ring apron. Borne pulled the sheet off again but this time it was RIP OLIVER! Oliver chased Borne from the ring, picked up the chair and challenged Borne to come back. Oliver also embraced Gun. Oliver said he was the real king of the Northwest and wanted a match with Borne to prove it. Borne refused to meet Rip. Oliver had been working for a logging company and had quit wrestling after being fired from the OWF just prior to its fall.

NEWS FLASH!! Don Owen's promoter's license has been pulled by the Oregon State Boxing and Wrestling Commission and the promotion has been shut down for an indefinite period! This stems from Owen not meeting a 11/1 deadline for having guard rails installed at all sites and an incident on 11/12 where Matt Borne bladed in a match against Steve Doll.

Owen claimed that he was not aware of the Borne blade job and wouldn't have allowed it if he had known of those plans beforehand.

He also said that the person responsible for building the guard rails was having problems in constructing them, whatever that means!! Don has 90 days to request a hearing to challenge the suspension and his lawyer is considering getting a restraining order against the commission. Bruce Anderson, commission director, said he hopes they can come to the table and Don will make the appropriate changes rather than going to court over it but added they are prepared to do so if need be. The

TV shows will be highlights from the past and, depending on how far they go back, this could be interesting. It will also be interesting to see what I will put into my column until Owen is back in business.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

UNIONDALE, NY 9WWF) - courtesy of Gary Fishman...Blazer pinned Davis (C-)...Brainbusters over Stallions (C)...Neidhart beat Ray Rougeau (D+)... Jacques pinned Bret (D)...Warrior by DQ over HTM (C+)...Bravo pinned SD Jones (F)...Akeem beat Duggan (D-)...Beefcake downed Bass...NOTES: Attendance: 14,000...HTM DQ'd for using megaphone...Hogan and Slick appeared on special Brother Love live segment...Bravo interfered to give Akeem the win...Card was 11/11

11/15 SALT LAKE CITY (WWF) - courtesy of Jack Thompson...Akeem pinned Tony Garea (D)...Bravo over Duggan by COR (D)...Brainbusters beat Stallions (A+)...Warrior beat HTM via DQ (Z)...Rougeau beat Hart Foundation (C+)... Blazer beat Davis (F)...Beefcake pinned Bass (D-)...NOTES: Attendance 8500...Tully and Arn were met with people doing the "dangling horsemen" sign...Garea subbed for an "injured" JYD...Warrior blew up on way to ring in higher altitude...Frenchy Martin and Jimmy Hart were present.

11/16 RALEIGH (NWA) - courtesy of Mike Gunter...Original ME beat Thompson/Justice (D)...Gilbert pinned Stallion (C-)...Fulton over Cruel Connection #1 (D+)...Williams beat Simmons (C+)...Koloff beat Assassins (D)...Road Warriors over ME (C-)...NOTES: Attendance 200...Sheeps no showed...Sullivan distracted Simmons for Doc's win...Warriors-Express in a cage...Express tried but Roadies didn't care...No Paul E on card.

11/17 LOS ANGELES (WWF) - courtesy of Andy Dragos...Blazer beat Davis (B)...Rockers over Conquistadors (B+)...Bad News defeated patera (D)... Beefcake over Bass (C+)...Hogan over Bossman by COR (C+)...Brainbusters beat Stallions (B)...Hercules beat Virgil (C)...Warrior pinned HTM (C)... NOTES: Attendance: 10,000...Hogan handcuffed Bossman to ringropes and clotheslined him over top rope...Bossman was then counted out...DiBiase at ringside with Virgil...HTM walked out of match and Warrior literally dragged him back to ring by his hair...Warrior also carried Jimmy Hart back to dressing room at beginning of the match...show taped for Z channel.

11/23 BALTIMORE (NWA) - courtesy of Fred Naarisma...Original ME over Stallion/Joey Nash...Express beat Ted Tyson/Tony Stetson...Tommy Rogers beat Rip Morgan...Rotundo pinned Fulton...Koloff over Assassins...Rhodes over Windham by DQ...Warriors DCOR Lex/Sting...Flair pinned Steiner...NOTES: Attendance 6000...Nash, Tyson and Stetson all local jobbers (Tony is Hitman Stetson for independents on east coast)...Russians match was double chain match...Dusty got belt after ref bump screw job ending but it was overruled...Warriors, Sting/Luger brawled all the way back to dressing room for DCOR...JJ held Steiner's leg during final pin.

11/24 LUBBOCK, TX (IND) - courtesy of Victor Martinez...Million \$ Baby beat Machoman Midget...Dogs of War over Lone Star Rockers...Barbarian Jeff Gylord beat Kendo Nagasaki II via DQ...Soloman Grundy Beat Chief Little Running Deer...Super Destroyers I & II beat Ted Heath & Junk Yard Dog II...Killer Tim Brooks lost to Tom Jones via reversed decision...Missy Hyatt over Fantasy via DQ...Chris Adams & Tony Atlas pinned Samoana Tapu & Tio...Tom Jones won battle royal...NOTES: Attendance: 450...Lots of namesakes from major promotions here...Grundy had hands tied behind back for his match against MUCH smaller Deer...Dogs did run in and Rockers made Grundy's save...

11/26 GREENSBORO (NWA) - courtesy of Larry Lovell...Fantastics pinned Larry Z/Rip Morgan...Original over Justice/Thompson...Perez beat Stallion... ME over Cruel Connection...Rotundo pinned Simmons...Doc DDQ Steiner... Koloffs beat Assassins...Dusty/Bigelow beat Flair/Windham by DQ...Warriors DCOR Luger/Sting...NOTES: attendance 7000...Doc held Simmons' foot during pin...Steiner did a run in and the crowd popped big...Warriors did run in for Flair and Windham...Dusty wore a white star eye patch because of TBS angle...Warriors-Sting/Luger did Memphis style brawl back to dressing room.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

Let's take care of the trivia question before getting to even more trivial stuff. Last issue we asked you for the name of the music that the Varsity Club uses for their entrance. The name of the song is "Mr. Touchdown, USA" and the version they use is performed by the University of Michigan Marching band, circa 1974 or so. This issue, we want to know what kind of critter Rick Steamboat carried to the ring with him to battle Jake the Snake's snake. And no, GIANT LIZARD won't do. We'll give you the answer next time and as always, there is no prize for correct responses.

Here's some news from overseas that you may find interesting. Bob Backlund has come out of retirement to go to work for Akira Maeda's UWF in Japan. He will headline a card sometime in December and it should draw very well. In Japan, the UWF wrestles what is known as strong style which is almost amateur-professionals. The style is a lot of mat work, devoid of high spots and well known for submission holds. There you will see wrestlers submit to an arm bar, thus making the fans think it is more of a legitimate wrestling than employed by the other two promotions (three if you count the women).

Red Bastein, once part of the Flying Redheads of AWA fame, is promoting with magazine publisher/editor Virginia Bowes overseas as well. Their shows are tours of Malaysia, Yugoslavia, and Singapore featuring wrestlers such as Steve Strong, Colonel DeBeers, Rocky Johnson, Mitch Snow, Doug Sommers, Ken Timbs, Cyclone Negro, and Randy "Moondog" Culley. Some of the heels working the tour have reportedly caused near riots in some locales with their antics. Hmm.

Adrian Street will have a movie out soon as he has been talking with Lomar about the project. It is supposedly based on his book which is an auto biography with a good sprinkling of fiction.

There are mixed reports on this next...From what I can gather, November 13th (the date may be off by a week, one way or another) was when an outlaw group held a card in Hawaii. Lia Miavia was not connected with the card and accused Japan's Giant Baba of invading her territory. The card, which went on despite bomb threats, featured Michaels Hayes, the Funks, Dick Slater, Tommy Rich, Stan Hansen, Jerry Blackwell, the Nasty Boys, and Danny Spivey. our correspondent (who elects to remain nameless) did not attend due to the bomb threats.

A little unfinished business. Several months ago we told you of a young man from Pennsylvania who was suing Randy Savage for allegedly "bodyslamming" after the man stopped Savage on a highway. The case has been settled out of court for an undisclosed amount of money. The man alleged that he had stopped Savage for an autograph when the two exited an interstate. Original reports were exaggerated saying that he was beaten up a lot more than the testimony in this account revealed. The sewer (and what else would you call him) admitted that Savage did indeed sign an autograph, something that I doubt would have happened had Savage really done a number on him.

for those of you who send tapes regularly, hold off for a while, please. Our VCR is down (naturally the VHS machine...the Beta is still going strong) and our budget with an upcoming holiday and a ten day layoff (from the factory) just won't allow us to get it fixed for a while. I'll let you know in the Forum when to start up again.

Next issue will be our Christmas issue and we always ask for reader contributions for that issue with one particular theme...what Santa Clause should bring different wrestlers for Christmas. I'm only going to ask for one thing this year myself and that's a live in mechanic who can fix printing presses, photocopiers, VCRs, typewriters and everything else around here that I don't understand. Please be a bit more creative with your wrestlers' lists and of course, if you don't want us to use

your name, just say so.

I'll have to get the VCR fixed. Our cable company is not going to carry either of the PPV events in December. I have it arranged now for reports on the AWA show on the 13th and probably a tape but I need to arrange something with someone for Starrcade. If you'll be getting Starrcade and can tape it for me, call me and we'll work something out. The best time to get hold of me is after 11:30 pm my time and the phone number is (309) 289-2662.

The postal Disservice has played havoc with the last couple of issues that went out. If you at any time receive just the cover of the Forum and nothing else (usually it will show up in a post office "body bag" with a note of apology), just send it back to me. I will send a new copy out with no charge against your subscription. But please, send the cover back. We need it to get credit from the post office.

here are a couple of reader requests: NANNETTE JOHNSON of 811 Water St, Watertown, NY 13601 is in "desperate" need of a Stampede wrestling source. She can trade tapes in VHS of any WWF show, any TBS show, GLOW, CWA, Continental, or AWA. Write to her if you can help out.

BRUNO ROTI of 2941 S Canal in Chicago, IL 60616 has some tapes for sale. These are original tapes, not copies and so the price is more than you'd expect to pay for a copy. Some have never been opened and the rest only watched once, never copied. Write to him for details.

Locally, a Peoria man is suing the WWF and Barry O for injuries sustained in 1985. Allegedly, Barry O pushed the man after he made a smart comment following a match. The people who filed the complaint evidently flunked pre law as the suit names the WWF (not the parent company Titan) and "Barry O", citing that they didn't know his real name and as far as they know it's not available. I almost called the lawyer handling the case to let him know Barry is serving time in a state prison for manslaughter, but I decided that it'd be more fun to sit back and watch them botch the case. A local newspaper report had the lawyer asking for anyone with information, INCLUDING THE ADDRESS OF THE WWF to contact him. Sometimes I feel sorry for people with brain damage. Not this time.

For those of you voting, be sure to answer the additional survey questions. Here they are so you can add them onto the end of your ballot. First, you have just been made matchmaker/booker by a worldwide charity. This charity has convinced every promotion to release its wrestlers for one night. you, as matchmaker, are now in charge of signing five matches using any wrestlers in the world today. One match can be a six man tag match and the rest have to be either regular tag matches or singles. They can all be singles if you like. You don't have to give the results, just the dream match ups. You may book the end of ONE match. All dreamcards will be listed in the year book.

Also, answer the following questions so we can put together some meaningless statistics about our readership: AGE: OCCUPATION: SEX: YEARS A FAN: APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF LIVE CARDS ATTENDED IN A YEAR: APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK SPENT WATCHING TV WRESTLING: NUMBER OF LETTERS SUBSCRIBED TO:

Are we out of room already? Gee, it's been fun. Remember to send along you Christmas list for wrestlers for inclusion in next issue. Our Christmas issue usually has some photographs included for your dart board or roach extermination needs and we'll try to get those in next time as well. In the meantime, take care, be good and all that good stuff. See ya in a couple of weeks.

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